

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 EPG-02 OMB-01 /074 W
-----008388 301422Z /41

R 301211Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8810
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
/AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST 2533
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 2137

ROME FOR AMBASSADOR LODGE

E.O. GDS
TAGS: PINT, HU, VT, PGOV, SHUM
SUBJECT: KADAR BRIEFS CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADERS ON MEETING WITH POPE

REF: BUDAPEST 1949

1. OFFICIAL HUNGARIAN NEWS AGENCY (MTI) REPORTED JUNE 25
THAT HSWP SECRETARY JANOS KADAR MET AT THE STATE OFFICE FOR
CHURCH AFFAIRS TO BRIEF CATHOLIC CHURCH LEADERS ON HIS VISIT
JUNE 9 WITH POPE PAUL VI. KADAR FIRST MET PRIVATELY WITH
CARDINAL LEKAI, PRIMATE OF HUNGARY, AND LATER WITH JOZSEF
IFJAS, ARCHBISHOP OF KALOCSA, AND JSZSEF CSERHATI, ARCHBISHOP
OF PECS AND CHAIRMAN OF HUNGARIAN COUNCIL OF BISHOPS. IFJAS
IS AN INCREASINGLY SENILE AND WEAK ACCOMMODATIONIST WHO PROVIDED
A GOOD IMAGE OF "PEACE" PRIEST DURING HIS YEARS AS
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CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF BISHOPS.

2. MEETINGS ARE INTERESTING FROM A NUMBER OF POINTS OF
VIEW. FIRST OF ALL THEY DID NOT TAKE PLACE AT PARTY
HEADQUARTERS OR ON CHURCH PREMISES BUT IN A GOVERNMENT
OFFICE. KADAR OBVIOUSLY WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN PAYING
A CALL ON CHURCH LEADERS ON CHURCH PROPERTY JUST AS CATHOLIC

CLERGY WOULD NOT WISH TO VISIT HSWP HEADQUARTERS. MEETINGS
REFLECT CONTINUED PERSONAL ATTENTION THAT KADAR IS DEVOTING
TO IMPROVEMENT OF CHURCH-STATE RELATIONS, PART AND PARCEL
OF HIS POLICY OF "NATIONAL RECONCILIATION." EVER THE
CONSUMMATE POLITICIAN KADAR HAS MOVED TO EXPLOIT IN PUBLIC
EYE SUCCESS OF HIS CALL ON POPE. FACT THAT MEETINGS MADE
PUBLIC IS IN ITSELF SIGNIFICANT. PERSHPS PART OF THE
EXPLANATION LIES IN KADAR'S DESIRE TO ENHANCE POPULAR SUPPORT
FOR HIS REGIME AT A TIME WHEN THERE SOME GRUMBLING OVER
DECLINE IN IMPROVEMENT IN STANDARD OF LIVING.
MUDD

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Message Attributes

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